AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A cutting implement comprising:

a pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades, each having a cutting edge; and

a coating disposed on each of said pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades, wherein said coating has about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride and provides said pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades with a satin silver appearance.

2. (Currently amended) The cutting implement as in claim 1, wherein said coating has a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gegapascals~~ gigapascals, as measured by Vickers microhardness testing according to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) E384, as revised, March 2001.

3. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 2, wherein said coating has a thickness in a range between about 0.3 and 0.5 microns.

4. (Currently amended) The cutting implement as in claim 1, wherein said coating has a hardness in a range of about 7.2 to about 7.6 ~~gegapascals~~ gigapascals, as measured by Vickers microhardness testing according to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) E384, as revised, March 2001.

5. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 4, wherein said coating has a thickness of about 0.4 microns.

6. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 1, wherein said coating provides each of said pair of cutting blades with a surface roughness in a range of about 15 to 25 10^{-6} inch/inch.

7. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 1, wherein the cutting implement is selected from the group consisting of a pair of scissors, a rotary style paper trimmer, and a guillotine style paper trimmer.

8. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 7, wherein each of said pair of cutting blades is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, 420 stainless steel, heat-treated steel, heat treated stainless steel, and heat treated 420 stainless steel.

9. (Currently amended) The cutting implement as in claim 8, wherein said coating is disposed on each of said pair of cutting blades such that the coating forms a metallurgical bond with the blades, said metallurgical bond resisting one or[[e]] more of flaking, blistering, chipping, and peeling.

10. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 8, wherein said coating is adsorbed into a surface layer of each of said cutting blades.

11. (Currently amended) A cutting implement comprising:

a pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades; and

a titanium chromium nitride coating disposed on each of said pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary said cutting blades, wherein said titanium chromium nitride coating has a thickness in a range between about 0.3 and 0.5 microns, a surface roughness in a range of about 15 to 25 10^{-6} inch/inch, and a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gegapascals~~ gigapascals, as measured by Vickers microhardness testing according to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) E384, as revised, March 2001.

12. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 11, wherein said coating comprises about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride.

13. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 11, wherein said coating comprises about 50 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 50 percent by weight of chromium nitride.

14. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 13, wherein said coating has a thickness of about 0.4 microns.

15. (Currently amended) The cutting implement as in claim 11, wherein said coating provides said pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades with a satin silver appearance.

16. (Original) The cutting implement as in claim 11, wherein the cutting implement is selected from the group consisting of a pair of scissors, a rotary style paper trimmer, and a guillotine style paper trimmer.

17. (Currently amended) The pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting surfaces as in claim 11, wherein said pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, 420 stainless steel, heat-treated steel, heat treated stainless steel, and heat treated 420 stainless steel.